

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 31, with the following amended paragraph:

Referring particularly to FIG. 1 wherein a cedar version of the artificial shingle 10 is shown, the top surface 14 includes an upper top overlap portion 28 and a lower top exposure portion 30. When the artificial shingle 10 is mounted upon the roof structure in a conventional arrangement of overlapping courses, the lower top exposure portion 30 will remain visible, while the upper top overlap portion 28 will be substantially concealed beneath a higher course. Thus, the lower top exposure portion 30 is provided (e.g., stamped, molded, imprinted) with a relief or three-dimensional pattern 32 substantially resembling the natural material of which conventional shingles are constructed. If, for example, the natural material is cedar or another wood, then the relief pattern 32 would present a corresponding wood grain pattern. The upper portion 28 may, as desired, be substantially flat, with no relief pattern. Preferably, the lower top exposure portion 30 extends over approximately between 0.50% 50% and 0.75% 75% of the top surface 14, with the exact percentage depending at least in part on the degree of desired exposure.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

Referring particularly to FIG. 2, the bottom surface 16 includes an upper bottom exposure portion 36 and a lower bottom overlap portion 38. In certain applications, it is desirable to design the roof structure so as to allow for viewing the bottom surface 16 of the mounted artificial shingle 10. The roof structures of gazebos and similar shelters, for example, may make use of spaced slats through which the bottom surface 16 can be seen, rather than solid sheets of plywood. Prior art artificial shingles do not provide a realistic-appearing bottom surface, thereby necessitating that plywood or other solid sheathing or underlayment be used to conceal the bottom surface in order to preserve the overall illusion of natural shingle material. The upper bottom exposure portion 36 of the artificial shingle 10 of the present invention, however, is provided with a relief or three-dimensional pattern 40 that is identical or substantially similar to the pattern 32 of the lower top exposure portion 30 of the top surface 14. This advantageously allows for a wider choice of roof structure design, including, for example, use of the aforementioned spaced slats. The lower bottom overlap portion 38 may, as desired, be substantially flat, with no relief pattern. Preferably, the upper bottom exposure portion 36 extends over approximately between 0.50% 50% and 0.75% 75% of the bottom surface 16, with the exact percentage depending at least in part on the degree of desired exposure of the lower top exposure portion of the top surface 14 of the artificial shingle 10.